

1897

# Report of the Organization of the Mississippi Woman Suffrage Association

Mississippi Woman Suffrage Association

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REPORT  
OF THE  
ORGANIZATION  
OF THE  
MISSISSIPPI  
WOMAN SUFFRAGE ASSOCIATION.

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MERIDIAN, MISSISSIPPI.

MAY 5TH, 1897.

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OFFICERS OF THE  
MISSISSIPPI WOMAN SUFFRAGE ASSOCIATION.

—o—

President, Mrs. ROBERT SOMERVILLE, Greenville, Miss.

VICE PRESIDENTS.

Miss BELLE KEARNEY, Flora, Miss.

Mrs. GEO. C. HARRIS, Vicksburg, Miss.

Mr. THOS. MOUNT, Vicksburg, Miss.

Mr. D. S. HARMON, Meridian, Miss.

Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. LILLY WILKINSON THOMPSON,  
Crystal Springs, Miss.

Recording Secretary, ..... Mrs. CHARLOTTE L. PITTMAN,  
208 Crawford street, Vicksburg, Miss.

Treasurer, ..... Mrs. MABEL PUGH,  
Yazoo City, Miss.

SUPERINTENDENTS OF DEPARTMENTS.

Bible Study, ..... Mrs. S. E. DEAN, Iuka, Miss.

Literature and Press, Mrs. ELLA BIGGS, Crystal Springs, Miss.

Industrial Opportunities for Women,

Mrs. FANNIE CLARK, Shannon

Report of Convention.

The first Convention ever held in Mississippi in the interest of Woman Suffrage convened at the City Hall in Meridian at 2:30 in the afternoon, May 5th, 1897.

The Convention was called and was presided over by Miss Ella Harrison, President of the Missouri Woman Suffrage Association, by authority of the Organization Committee of the National American Woman Suffrage Association.

The Convention was opened with prayer by Rev. N. B. Harmon. Addresses of welcome were made by Miss Madge Montgomery and Mrs. L. S. Mount.

Committees on Constitution and By-Laws and on Credentials were appointed.

Short speeches were made on different phases of the suffrage question.

Committee reports were read and adopted and officers elected.

At 8 p. m. the second and final session was held. The audience was large and sympathetic. After prayer by Mrs. Katherine Lente Stevenson, Corresponding Secretary of the National W. C. T. U., and a song by Mr. Humphreys, an eloquent address was delivered by Mrs. Mary C. C. Bradford, of Denver, Col. A collection was taken and the



Convention was closed with prayer by Rev. H. Walter Featherstun.

In February 1895 Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt, of New York, visited Mississippi, speaking in McComb City, Jackson and Greenville. Later, in the same year, Miss Elizabeth Yates, of Maine, spoke at Corinth, Iuka, Brookhaven, Crystal Springs, Greenville, McComb City and Harriston.

The organization of the Mississippi Woman Suffrage Association may be regarded as the conclusion of the work begun by Mrs. Catt, as the representative of the National American Woman Suffrage Association, and under the special direction of the Southern Committee, whose chairman was Miss Laura Clay of Kentucky.

#### MEMBERS OF THE CONVENTION.

Mrs. Fannie Clark . . . . .	Shannon
Mrs. Lullie Burie . . . . .	Meridian
" C. E. Wright . . . . .	Jackson
" F. E. Saunders . . . . .	Meridian
Miss Mollie Hunton . . . . .	"
Mr. W. H. Patton . . . . .	Shubuta
Mrs. S. A. Hollensbe . . . . .	Canton
Miss Anna Simonton . . . . .	Jackson
Mrs. Anna Short . . . . .	Columbus
Mrs. Mabel Pugh . . . . .	Yazoo City

" Fannie Miller . . . . .	Iuka
" A. M. Lyon . . . . .	Vicksburg
" E. D. Holt . . . . .	Booneville
Miss M. L. Montgomery . . . . .	Meridian
Mr. Thos. Mount . . . . .	Vicksburg
Mrs. Thomas Mount . . . . .	"
Rev. N. B. Harmon . . . . .	Meridian
Mr. D. S. Harmon . . . . .	"
" T. W. Pitt . . . . .	"
" Geo. W. Mann . . . . .	"
" R. M. Guy . . . . .	"
" J. C. Covett . . . . .	"
" M. C. Emmons . . . . .	"
" W. W. Harrison . . . . .	"
Mrs. Julia T. Goodhue . . . . .	"
" Stella Parker . . . . .	Wesson
" Annie E. Harper . . . . .	Fayette
" Lilly Wilkinson Thompson . . . . .	Crystal Springs
" W. D. Moore . . . . .	Meridian
" M. A. Roberts . . . . .	Yazoo City
" G. W. Cox . . . . .	Columbus
" H. R. Garner . . . . .	"
" Charlotte L. Pittman . . . . .	Vicksburg

#### FROM OTHER STATES.

Miss Ella Harrison . . . . .	Missouri
Mrs. Mary C. C. Bradford . . . . .	Colorado
" Katherine Lente Stevenson . . . . .	Illinois
" Addie N. Fields . . . . .	Kentucky



# DIRECTORY OF CLUBS.

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 Treasurer ..... Mrs. LULU HOWERTON  
 Auditor..... Mrs. FANNIE MILLER

## DURANT

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 Vice Pres..... Miss GEORGIA NICHOLSON  
 Secretary..... Mrs. M. E. HOWARD  
 Treasurer..... Mrs. M. R. COX

## YAZOO CITY.

President ..... Mr. R. L. BENNETT  
 Vice Pres..... Mrs. C. R. HUNTER  
 Secretary..... Mrs. CAPT. WHITE  
 Treasurer..... Mr. GEO. O. ROBERTS

CORINTH ..... Mrs. MARY B. CURLEE\*  
 McCOMB CITY ..... Mrs. MARY M. REYNOLDS\*  
 CRYSTAL SPRINGS. Mrs. LILLY WILKINSON THOMPSON\*  
 MERIDIAN ..... Mr. D. S. HARMON\*  
 JACKSON ..... Mrs. C. E. WRIGHT\*

\*Organization incomplete.

# CONSTITUTION

OF THE

## MISSISSIPPI WOMAN'S SUFFRAGE ASSOCIATION.

### MOTTO:

"IF YE ABIDE IN MY WORD . . . YE SHALL KNOW THE TRUTH,  
 AND THE TRUTH SHALL MAKE YOU FREE."

### ARTICLE I.

#### NAME.

This Association shall be known as the Mississippi Woman's  
 Suffrage Association, auxiliary to the National American  
 Woman Suffrage Association.

### ARTICLE II.

#### OBJECT.

Its object shall be to advance the industrial, educational  
 and legal rights of women, and to secure suffrage to them by  
 appropriate State and National legislation.

### ARTICLE III.

#### MEMBERSHIP.

Any local Woman's Suffrage Association may become  
 auxiliary to the State Woman's Suffrage Association by endorsing  
 the Constitution and paying dues to the State Treasurer.  
 Any person may become a member of this Association by endorsing  
 the Constitution and paying dues to the State Treasurer.  
 No distinction on account of sex shall be made in membership  
 or eligibility to office in this Association.



ARTICLE IV.  
FINANCE.

Each local Association shall pay annually to the State fund the amount of twenty-five cents per member to each auxiliary; ten cents of which shall go to the National American Woman's Suffrage Association. Each member of the Woman's Suffrage Association, not a member of the auxiliary local Association, shall pay annually to the State fund the amount of one dollar.

ARTICLE V.  
OFFICERS.

The officers shall be a President, two or more Vice Presidents, a Corresponding Secretary, a Recording Secretary, and a Treasurer. These general officers shall constitute an Executive Committee to provide for and control the general interest of the work, of whom three shall constitute a quorum when assembled, or a majority may act by correspondence in response to a circular letter addressed to every member of the Executive Committee, not less than ten days beforehand, by the President.

ARTICLE VI.  
ANNUAL MEETING.

The annual meeting shall be composed of the Executive Committee, the State Superintendents of Departments, and one delegate for every ten paying members from each auxiliary association, and one delegate-at-large from each county in which there is no auxiliary.

The time and place of the annual meeting shall be chosen by the Executive Committee, and at this meeting the general officers shall be elected.

ARTICLE VII.  
AMENDMENTS.

This Constitution may be altered or amended by a two thirds vote of the members present at any annual meeting.